

## **AARC Workgroup for the AAQOL Commission**

**Date of Meeting:** 10/11/2017

**Location of Meeting:** AARC Conference Room

**Meeting attended by:** Vince Cobalis; Subhada Saxena; Taja Beekley; Gopal Guthikonda; Peter Chao; Hailey Easley; Debasree DasGupta

The meeting started at 10:50 am with those in attendance watching a video recently put together on the AARC, segments of which will be placed in Facebook and also sent to Channel 6.

### **Status of Great Lawn Equipment:**

Equipment has been purchased and request for installation has been sent. It is being hoped that will be completed by January 8<sup>th</sup>. AARC is teaming with the NE parks distribution for beautification and planning to contact groups such as the Boy Scouts for this purpose

### **Food Permit for the Senior Meal Program:**

AARC has reached out to three caterers for on-site cooking which could provide more meals. However the caterers prefer to prepare the food in their own premises and then deliver. Certain days of the week seem to be more popular than others so it is difficult to gauge the number of meals needed. It was necessary to turn people away at times. A waiting list may have to be created so everyone is guaranteed a meal a week.

There is funding for only one vehicle and a driver this year.

### **Budget Impact on Hours and Operations:**

AARC does not have the same funding as last year so cannot be kept open late for more than two nights a week. This requires cutting down the number

of ESL classes. This spawned a discussion on funds that could be raised through donations. However, the funds raised cannot be accessed until the following year and these donations are not tax-deductible. Other options need to be explored. Fees have risen from \$30/hr. to \$50/hr. As community partners, ACC and Foundation Communities do not pay for room rentals and the expenses are covered by the AARC budget.

The commercial kitchen also entails expenses such as quarterly grease –tap cleaning at \$1000 per cleaning.

### **HR Report:**

Five individuals have been with assisted with employment services at the center. Word has been slow to spread. There have been postings on Twitter, Facebook, and advertisements on South Asian News, AARC newsletter and Epoch times. They are requesting more visibility. Also The Employment services specialist can work only on Wednesdays starting October 11 as the workspace will be needed for seniors on Tuesdays. (Please look at the HR report attachment for more information)

Vince Cobalis is planning to set-up a joint meeting of the HR and AARC workgroups.

### **FY2017 performance for AARC:**

By the end of September for fiscal year 2017, the center had received over 50,000 visitors. Taja Beekley attended the annual Smithsonian Affiliations

Conference in Washington DC in early October. The Smithsonian has offered a \$6,000 grant through their Learning Lab and Asian American Center to provide professional development to school teachers for working on Asian American history. Vince Cobalis suggested contacting Thuy Nguyen for this program.

### **Artist in residency program at the AARC**

Laura Esparza provided an overview:

The Council made a decision on a proposed funding for artists who require space for theater, dance and visual arts demonstrations. Of the \$240,000 grant, \$30,000 has been allocated to each of 8 centers which would also pay for two temps and would enable the facility to remain open for evening hours.

A contract has been drawn up for artists wishing to apply for this. Residency could be for 2 months to 2 years. The artists would get rehearsal space and a performance platform. Ticket prices need to be set at \$1/person. Applications are available from this Monday. Anyone who has applied for cultural arts funding can apply for this.

This program could be of much benefit for the AARC. The facility could be open for more nights than 2 providing space for other activities. The source of the cultural funding is through hotel/motel taxes, so there is expectation that these programs should promote tourism. The Arts and Culture workgroup of the AAQoL as well as the sister cities programs should be made aware of this program. Austin Dance India (Anu Naimpally) and Indie Meme have already received funding.

Discussion followed regarding the stage at the AARC possibly being inadequate for some of these programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.